

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

Luke 8:4-15; Galatians 5:7

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

- Dullness of Hearing. Luke 8:10; Matthew 13:15
 - Dull: Thick, fat, callous
 - Hearing: Give audience, attend to
 - Closed mind. Luke 8:5, 12
 - Unbelief. John 6:60-66
 - Hard heart. Hebrews 3:7-8

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

- Lack of endurance. Luke 8:13
 - Joyful, but shallow faith.
 - Emotional mind – Fails to count the cost of following Jesus. Luke 14:27-33; cf. Acts 14:22
 - Endure to the end to be saved. Revelation 2:10; (Hebrews 12:1)

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

- Prevalence of sin. Matthew 24:12
 - Grows and destroys. 2 Timothy 2:16-17; 3:13
 - Association with world affects growth. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20, KJV). 1 Corinthians 15:33-34; cf. Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Sin's deception chokes out the word of God. Luke 8:14 (Mark 4:18-19)
 - Wandering mind without focus. 2 Corinthians 10:5; deny self! (Matthew 16:24)
 - Escape temptation! 1 Corinthians 10:13

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

- Commands/doctrines of men. Colossians 2:8, 18-23
 - Growth comes from holding fast. 2 Timothy 1:13; Hebrews 3:12ff; 10:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:15
 - When we submit to men's doctrines we replace ...
 - Christ (head) with man. Ephesians 1:22-23
 - Imperishable truth with perishable things. John 8:32
 - Kingdom of heaven with the world. Matthew 6:33
 - Powerful truth with impotent error. Romans 1:16
 - Nutrition with junk food. Galatians 1:6-9
 - Valuable with counterfeit. Colossians 2:23

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

- Spiritual fatigue. 2 Thessalonians 3:13
 - Lose heart: Faint, exhausted ... despondent, unresponsive
 - Will reap in "*due season*." Galatians 6:9-10
 - Labor in Christ is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58
 - Continue to "do good." Galatians 6:9-10
 - Be patient and wait on the Lord. James 5:7-9

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

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- Forgetfulness. 2 Peter 1:12-15
 - Past blessings. 2 Peter 1:9
 - Present privileges and responsibilities. 2 Peter 1:3-4
 - Future reward. 2 Peter 1:10-11

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

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- Neglect. 1 Peter 2:2
 - Stop craving truth.
 - Stop learning, assembling, praying, etc.
 - Abide in Christ, bear fruit. John 15:1-6
 - *Honest, renewed heart* holds fast to the word of God. Luke 8:15
 - Apathy will cause many to be lost. Romans. 12:11; Revelation 3:16-17

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

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- Stumbling blocks laid by others. Matthew 18:6-10; 10:34ff
 - Treatment of others can help or hinder someone's growth. Galatians 6:1-2
 - Words and deeds. Proverbs 15:1-2, 28; Colossians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 9:22; 8:9-13
 - Regardless of others, we must remain faithful to Christ. Joshua 24:15

Hindrances To Spiritual Growth

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- Dullness of hearing
- Lack of endurance
- Prevalence of sin
- Commandments / Doctrines of men
- Spiritual Fatigue
- Forgetfulness
- Neglect
- Stumbling blocks laid by others

Spiritual Growth is Rewarded

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- Heavenly inheritance. 1 Peter 1:4-9
 - Incorruptible: Not liable to decay, imperishable
 - Undefiled: Unsoiled, no contamination
 - Does Not fade away: Unending
 - Reserved in heaven for you: Kept, guarded, preserved

Paul Prayed For Spiritual Growth

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(Ephesians 3:14-19)

- Strength in Christ when we live by faith. Philippians 4:13
- Spiritual Growth is not ...
 - Miraculous, accidental, or automatic
- Result of taking personal responsibility and refusing to be hindered. Ephesians 6:10